[Distributed to the Council and the Members of the League.]

C. 440. M. 170. 1926. III.
(C. H. / 7th Session / P. V.)

Geneva, August 6th, 1926.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS, Health Committee

Health Committee

Minutes of the

SEVENTH SESSION

Held at Paris on Saturday, June 19th, and Sunday, June 20th, 1926.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Dr. Th. MADSEN, *President*,	Director of the State Serum Institute, Copenhagen.
M. O. VELGHE, *Vice-President*,	Secretary-General of the Ministry of the Interior and of Health, Brussels.
Professor Carlos CHAGAS, *Vice-President*,	Director of the Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, Rio de Janeiro.
Dr. N. M. J. JITTA, *Vice-President*,	President of the Health Council of the Netherlands, The Hague.
Professor Léon BERNARD,	Professor of Hygiene at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Paris.
Sir George BUCHANAN,	Senior Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, London.
Professor J. CANTACUZÈNE,	Professor at the University of Bucarest.
Dr. H. CARRIÈRE,	Director of the Federal Health Department, Berne.
Dr. W. CHODZKO,	Former Polish Minister of Health; Director of the School of Hygiene, Warsaw.
Dr. A. GRANVILLE,	Late President of the Sanitary Maritime and Quarantine Council, Alexandria.
Professor Ricardo JORGE,	Director-General of Public Health, Lisbon.
Dr. A. LUTRARIO,	Late Director-General of the Health Department at the Ministry of the Interior, Rome.
Dr. P. MIMBELA,	Professor of the Faculty of Medicine, Lima.
Professor B. NOCHT,	Director of the Institute for Tropical Diseases, Hamburg.
Professor Donato OTTOLENGHI,	Professor of Hygiene at the Royal University, Bologna.
Dr. L. RAYNAUD,	Inspector-General of the Health Service, Algeria.
Dr. M. TSURUMI,	Representative of the Japanese Public Health Service.
Dr. L. RAJCHMAN,	The Medical Director, Secretary of the Committee.
Absent:	
Surgeon-General H. S. CUMMING,	Director-General of the United States Public Health Service, Washington.
Dr. Alice HAMILTON,	Associate-Professor of Industrial Hygiene, Harvard Medical School, Boston.
Professor Gustavo PITTALUGA,	Professor of the Faculty of Medicine, Madrid.

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FIRST MEETING

Held at Paris on Saturday, June 19th, 1926, at 10.30 a.m.

Present: All the members of the Committee, with the exception of Professor Chagas, Surgeon-General Cumming, Dr. Alice Hamilton and Professor Pittaluga.

235. Welcome to Professor Ottolenghi.

The PRESIDENT, in the name of his colleagues, extended a cordial welcome to Professor Ottolenghi.

236. Notification of Epidemic Diseases provided for in Article 1 of the International Sanitary Convention of 1926: Draft Agreement submitted by the Bureau of the Office international d'hygiène publique and the Health Committee of the League of Nations to the Two Committees.

The PRESIDENT recalled that a week previously the members of the Health Committee had met in private to examine a note submitted to its President by M. Velghe on behalf of the Sub-Committee of the Office international, which had studied the question of the procedure to be followed with regard to the notifications provided for in Article 1 of the International Sanitary Convention which had just been concluded. It had been decided that the two bureaux and the two directors should examine in common the possibility of drawing up a draft agreement. The two directors, in concert with the President of the Office international and the President of the Health Committee, had drafted a note (Annex 106), which had been distributed to the members of the Committee a week previously. The proposals contained in it could, he thought, be accepted by the Health Committee.

Dr. TSURUMI, with regard to the arrangement concluded between the Office international and the Health Committee on the notifications provided for in the Convention, thought that the Health Committee had already agreed unofficially, a few days previously, to the note prepared by the Bureau. Dr. Tsurumi had already informed the Committee on several occasions that this arrangement was of primary importance from the point of view of the Convention as far as his own country was concerned. Without such an arrangement, he feared that it would be very difficult for Japan to adhere to the Convention. He urged the Committee therefore to accept officially the note of the Bureau. He would then, if the Committee agreed, ask the President to be good enough to take the necessary measures to put this arrangement into execution as soon as possible.

Sir George BUCHANAN asked whether the proposal which had just been made meant that the draft agreement would be adopted in the name of the whole Health Committee.

The PRESIDENT replied in the affirmative.

Sir George BUCHANAN felt unable to advise the Health Committee to go so far as was proposed. The question had been discussed the day previously by the Permanent Committee of the Office international, at which the majority of the Committee, including himself, had agreed that the terms of the draft agreement should be examined in greater detail before they could even provisionally be accepted. He did not think it necessary to take up the time of the Committee by repeating the observations which he had made on the previous day. It was particularly important that the Office international should have the opportunity of fully working out the procedure which it was best to adopt in order that the different new obligations which it would have under the revised Convention should be properly fulfilled. For countries with large maritime commerce and large health interests, such as Great Britain, this could not be settled in a hurry. Some of the principles of co-ordination underlying the scheme of the bureaux appeared to him reasonable and he was in complete sympathy with the idea that the Health Organisation should co-operate in the execution of the Convention. But, as he had pointed out on the previous day, a good agreement could only be reached after the Office international had taken its decisions on the way in which the work entrusted to it had best be done, which meant that for the moment he could not accept the draft agreement.

The provisions of the new Convention had only just been drafted and had not yet been signed, and those which related to the Office international would have to be examined at leisure, not only by themselves but also in relation to the intentions of the Convention as a whole. The question had been discussed on the previous day when the new Director of the Office international had been appointed. The latter had been instructed, as a first duty, to investigate in detail the various parts of the Convention and to submit a report to the Office international during its October session. Until he was in a position to examine that report, to obtain its consideration by his own Government, and to discuss the matter with the delegates of other Governments when the questions had been put fully before them, he could not recommend the

acceptance of the draft agreement. He was quite ready, however, to take the draft agreement as a document to be utilised for further discussion when the proper time had arrived.

Professor Léon BERNARD regretted that he had not been able to hear the explanations given on the previous day by Sir George Buchanan. He had understood at the last meeting that all his colleagues on the Health Committee had already agreed to accept as a basis of discussion the draft agreement which the two bureaux had collaborated in drawing up. A basis of agreement was easy to find with a little good-will, but if the decisions of principle which had already been taken were now called in question there would be no reason why the problem should be solved in October or later. If an agreement could not be reached, the two organisations would be reduced to working separately. He would like to have further information from M. Velghe.

M. VELGHE said he had no intention of taking part in the discussion because of his somewhat delicate position as President of the Office international, all the more so as the Health Committee had not yet taken a decision on a basis of agreement. He felt compelled, however, to accede to the desire of Professor Léon Bernard and thought, moreover, that the statement of Sir George Buchanan had resulted from a misunderstanding. Sir George Buchanan had said that he could not consider the draft agreement as being more than a basis of discussion. It was precisely as a basis of discussion, however, that the draft agreement had been submitted to the Health Committee and on the day previously to the Permanent Committee of the Office international.

The Health Convention contained provisions which represented an extension of the work of the Office international, but it had been immediately laid down that the Office international could make arrangements with other organisations in order to fulfil its new duties. Personally, he had been urged on various sides to press for the adoption as soon as possible, that was to say at the present session, of a basis of agreement. Numerous delegations, especially the Japanese delegation, had desired to see the arrangement inserted in the text of the Convention. In any case it was a legitimate desire to know as soon as possible the meaning of this agreement for two reasons which had been explained at a previous meeting. It was necessary that each member should be able to inform his Government without delay in what manner the Office international and the Health Committee understood the arrangement which had been made. It had been emphasised that it was all the more useful to ascertain the terms of the draft agreement — for it was only a draft — since this document, once known, might have exercised an influence on the terms of the Convention.

It was actually the fact that a member of the Office international had considered that the draft agreement was opposed to a provision of the Convention stipulating that the agreement ought not to allow the substitution of one organisation for another. It had always been the general agreement that the Epidemiological Intelligence Service of the League of Nations should be kept intact. The gravity of the position could be realised. As some thought that the draft agreement was opposed to the Convention, some Governments might hesitate to sign the Convention itself. For this reason it had been thought desirable that the two Committees should reach agreement on a draft which could be discussed in October in order to prevent misunderstanding. The two Offices, together with the two Directors, the Chairman of the Committee of the Office international and the President of the Health Committee, had reached agreement on a draft and had done everything possible to obtain its adoption. The Office international, however, had refused to discuss this draft, though this did not mean that it had rejected it, but that it desired to examine it in October after it had had time to study the text of the Convention and to consult Governments.

Sir George Buchanan was of opinion that the draft should be adopted as a basis of discussion, but it was precisely this step which the Office international had been asked to take on the previous day. If the views of the various delegates had been ascertained, they would have been able to submit a text to their Governments, informing them that it would be proposed as a solution in October. Delegates would not have been bound by their vote and it would still have been possible in October to have made any amendment of the draft agreement which they thought best.

After the negative decision taken on the previous day, it was difficult to understand in what manner it would be possible to submit to Governments a proposal which in fact no longer existed. There remained the draft of the Medical Director, but that draft had not been very warmly received by certain members. Nevertheless, the solution which he had himself proposed had been very simple. The draft agreement, just as any other question, would have been preliminarily discussed by the Office international. Once it had been adopted, it would have been submitted to Governments and it would then have been referred a second time to the Office international.

He would state, in answer to the question put by Professor Léon Bernard, that he did not understand the misunderstanding which had occurred. There had been a refusal to discuss the text although it had been stated in advance that any decision taken on that text would not bind delegates.

Professor Léon BERNARD thanked M. Velghe. What had occurred could only be explained by the absence of a desire to reach an agreement. The position of everyone must be perfectly clear. In passing, he desired to rectify a statement of M. Velghe regarding the draft of the Medical Director. At the preceding unofficial meeting of the Health Committee, the draft had received the assent of all the members, including Sir George Buchanan.

M. VELGHE pointed out that the members at the preceding meeting had taken a decision, not on the draft agreement, but on a note, and it was upon that note that the draft had been based. The two documents resembled each other in the spirit if not in the letter.

Dr. RAJCHMAN explained the procedure. What was the position of the Health Committee of the League of Nations ? As he had recalled, a draft, drawn up by a Committee of the Office international concerning the co-operation of the two organisations in the fulfilment of the duties imposed by the Convention (Article 7) on the Office international in respect of epidemiological and other information had been circulated some days previously to members of the Health Committee.

During an unofficial meeting, a note prepared by the Medical Director in agreement with the Bureau of the Health Committee had been discussed. That note had been accepted by members who had attended the meeting, but, as it had been unofficial, it had not been possible for it to be adopted officially. On the basis of that note, a draft agreement with the Office international, agreed to by the Director of the Office international, had been drawn up. That agreement had been approved by the two Presidents. The question regarding the date on which that agreement or any other agreement should be concluded with the Office international concerned, not the Health Committee, but the Office international itself.

At the present stage, it would be useful if the Health Committee stated that it approved or disapproved of the agreement in order that the Office international, when the question came up again for consideration, might know the views of the Health Committee. He thought therefore that, during the present official meeting, the draft agreement should be discussed paragraph by paragraph in order that any objections might be foreseen.

Sir George BUCHANAN, in reply to Professor Léon Bernard, thought that to adjourn the discussion would in no way retard indefinitely the conclusion of a suitable agreement. During the previous week, at the unofficial meeting of the members of the Health Committee, he had expressed the view that definite proposals from the Committee would only prove of use when the Office international had formulated its requirements. This the Office was about to do. The new Convention could not come into operation this year, and it raised such important questions as regarded the future that the delegates to the Office international needed time to appreciate the exact scope of the Convention and consult their Governments if it were desired to submit useful suggestions to the Health Committee in October. This was the first reason why Sir George Buchanan considered that there was no objection to adjourning the question until October. There was a second reason, to which he had already alluded. The Office international possessed a new Director and it was only fair to give him time to take up his duties and submit a report on which the Committee might express a carefully considered opinion at its next session.

He noted that the draft agreement seemed to go further than the original note of the Medical Director in the sense that it covered questions too complex to be decided upon at the moment. For example, Article 7 of the Convention, to which the draft agreement alluded, and which dealt with rat plague, implied the establishment of all the necessary machinery not only for the transmission of information, but also for its collection, and so large a question as this could not be settled out of hand without examining all its aspects. Certain delegates had pointed out that it would be useful to take a decision before the meeting of the Assembly, but was it wise, or helpful to the solution they desired, to submit to the Assembly, as adopted, a draft which had not yet been examined by the Permanent Committee of the Office international, upon which the various Governments were represented ? If the Assembly were to give previous approval to this draft, the position of technical official delegates at the Office international would be made very difficult.

The PRESIDENT asked his colleagues if they agreed to adjourn their decision or whether they desired to discuss the draft agreement paragraph by paragraph. He thought that the majority desired to begin the discussion immediately.

Sir George BUCHANAN persisted in his opinion that the Committee would be in a far better position to discuss the draft later when it had more information before it. Obviously, however, he had no intention of opposing an immediate discussion if his colleagues desired to adopt such a procedure.

The PRESIDENT opened the discussion on the draft agreement.

Title :

The words " Draft Agreement " were replaced by the words " Preliminary Draft Agreement ".

Preamble :

No observations.

Paragraph 1.

The PRESIDENT asked Sir George Buchanan whether he had any observations to make.

Sir George BUCHANAN replied that the question was very important, but that he was not yet in a position to discuss it.

Paragraph 1 *was adopted.*

Paragraph 2.

Adopted.

Paragraphs 3 and 4.

Dr. RAJCHMAN noted that Sir George Buchanan had made a very important observation at the beginning of the meeting when he had stated that the present preliminary draft alluded to the former Article 7 (now Article 6 in the final text of the Convention) concerning rat plague. In the view of Sir George Buchanan, the introduction of this reference into the preliminary draft went beyond the terms of the note which had been examined at the unofficial meeting. This was a question which, in the view of Sir George Buchanan, ought either to have been left to the Office international or else discussed in greater detail. He would be very grateful to Sir George Buchanan if he would explain the scope of his objection, but he thought that a misunderstanding had arisen.

In paragraph 3 as well as in paragraph 4, the preliminary draft made provision solely for publication, by the Epidemiological Information Service, of information to be submitted to it by the Office international, but the Epidemiological Information Service had no responsibility with regard to the information sent to it for publication in the *Weekly Record*, etc. By the terms of paragraph 1, the duty of the Epidemiological Service was to communicate to the higher health authorities such notifications as were forwarded to it. By the terms of paragraphs 3 and 4, the Service undertook to publish in its *Weekly Record*, etc., reports submitted to it by the Office international on the responsibility of that office and drawn up in such a manner as the Office international might decide. In those circumstances, he did not quite understand the objections of Sir George Buchanan.

Sir George BUCHANAN, with regard to Article 6 (formerly Article 7 of the Convention), recalled how difficult it was to detect the presence of rat plague and, once its presence was discovered, to draw any definite conclusions on its intensity or infective ability to man. He thought that too much importance had been attached to the question of notifying rat plague, as though that disease were on the same footing as human plague. In his view it was for the central organisation established to satisfy the needs of the Convention, that was to say for the Office international, very carefully to investigate these various questions in order to decide in what circumstances and in what manner the countries in general, or perhaps only neighbouring countries, should receive information on cases of rat plague. Detailed decisions of procedure on these points were essential if reasonable measures were to be adopted in conformity with the terms of the Convention. In this and other matters, the draft agreement was too much concerned with the mechanism and too little with the product. Was it likely that a bureau of the League could act as a mere transmitter of information to and from the Office international ? It could not do this without also being a collector, without sorting and analysing its information, without corresponding with port sanitary authorities, without reporting or even criticising. He did not wish for the moment to express a decided opinion on the solution of these various questions, but repeated his plea for time and the absence of any practical need for haste.

Dr. RAYNAUD pointed out that the difficulties of notifying rat plague were no greater than those concerning the notification of human plague. The *Weekly Record* of the League of Nations was already publishing every week notifications of human plague, cholera, etc. What was asked was simply that the cases of rat plague should be added, and this request had been made by the United States and he thought also by Great Britain. He did not see what difficulties there would be which would prevent the League from publishing information submitted to it. The significance of information regarding epidemics of plague among rats would be no better appreciated at the end of six months than it was at that moment. A solution must be reached.

Dr. LUTRARIO said that he quite agreed with Dr. Raynaud. He suggested various formal amendments with the object of making clearer the wording of paragraphs 3 and 4. More particularly in paragraph 3 he proposed that the first sentence should read : " Information communicated as provided by Articles . . . shall be immediately forwarded by these bureaux to the Office international d'hygiène publique and to *the Epidemiological Service of the League of Nations.* " Without this addition the Epidemiological Information Service could not fulfil the duties entrusted to it by paragraph 4.

Dr. RAJCHMAN thought that it was obvious from the spirit of the agreement that the information communicated would be forwarded to the Epidemiological Information Service by virtue of the provisions of paragraph 4. He thought that there was a misunderstanding between Dr. Raynaud and Sir George Buchanan. Sir George Buchanan demanded that responsibility for the execution of all the articles concerning rat plague should remain with the Office international. This ought to be clearly understood and he would be glad to meet Sir George Buchanan in the drafting of paragraphs 3 and 4. These should clearly state that such should be the case. Information communicated to the regional bureaux would be forwarded to the Office international, which would do what it liked with the information and should decide in what form it should be published in the *Weekly Record.*

Dr. CARRIÈRE agreed with the Medical Director.

M. VELGHE explained the scope of paragraphs 3 and 4 as follows: Paragraph 3 showed merely in what manner communications sent to the regional bureaux in virtue of Articles 4 and 6 of the Convention would be dealt with. Such information would be forwarded to the Office international, and at the same time to the health administrations with whom the regional bureaux were in touch. It was in this way, in fact, that the Bureau at Singapore dealt with the information it now received; it would immediately forward the information to the

Office international as well as to the various health administrations. The Office international would inform the Service at Geneva that it would be required to publish in its *Weekly Record* a particular piece of information in conformity with paragraph 4. Paragraph 3 should therefore logically come before paragraph 4.

Sir George BUCHANAN said that, as he was compelled to leave the meeting on official business, he thought it might be convenient if he were permitted to make the following declaration:

" I am entirely in accord with the principle of making an agreement with the Office international which will facilitate the communication of information required under the Convention by means of the Health Organisation of the League of Nations. Such arrangements can obviously be of the greatest possible value. I accept this ' avant-projet d'accord ' therefore as a useful basis for the discussion which, I hope, will take place at an early date as soon as the Committee of the Office international, which is primarily responsible for all the arrangements to be made under the Convention, has decided on the main lines on which it should proceed to carry out its new duties under the Convention when that document comes into operation."

The PRESIDENT thanked Sir George Buchanan.

(Sir George Buchanan then withdrew.)

M. VELGHE said that he would have to abstain from voting on the preliminary draft agreement. He could neither vote against it, since he had approved it, nor vote for it since the Committee of the Office international had not taken a decision.

The preliminary draft agreement was approved with formal amendments and the Committee adopted (M. Velghe abstaining) the following resolution submitted by Professor Léon BERNARD:

" The Health Committee, having considered the terms of the preliminary draft submitted by the Bureaux of the Office international d'hygiène publique and the Health Committee of the League, approves the following text, which is the outcome of its deliberations:

" The Permanent Committee of the Office international d'hygiène publique and the Health Committee of the League have agreed on the following procedure, which they consider to be the most effective to ensure the centralisation and distribution of information concerning epidemic diseases and sanitary measures which are contemplated by the Paris International Convention of 1926.

" 1. The notifications provided for in Article 1, and intended for the Office international d'hygiène publique, may be transmitted by Governments through one of the League of Nations regional bureaux.

" These bureaux shall at once communicate such notifications, by telegram or wireless, to the Office internationale d'hygiène publique as well as to all the health administrations with which they are in direct relations.

" The notifications thus received shall be communicated forthwith by the Office international d'hygiène publique to the diplomatic agencies in Paris.

" 2. The immediate communication to the principal health authorities provided for under Article 3 of the Convention shall be effected in the name and on behalf of the Office international d'hygiène publique by the Epidemiological Intelligence Service of the League of Nations. All notifications forwarded to the Office international d'hygiène publique either directly or through the other regional bureaux shall be communicated immediately to this Service.

" The immediate communication of these notifications to principal health authorities shall be effected by this Service in the name of the Office international d'hygiène publique, by telegram or wireless, as frequently as may be necessary.

" 3. The communications provided for in Articles 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 12, 14, 16, 28 and 49 of the Convention, received direct by the regional bureaux of the League of Nations, shall be forwarded immediately to the Office international d'hygiène publique as well as to all the health administrations in direct relationship with those Bureaux.

" 4. The first page of the *Weekly Summary* and of the periodical publications, of the Epidemiological Intelligence Service of the League of Nations will give in the name of the Office international d'hygiène publique, the official bulletin of notifications and of intelligence, as provided for under Articles 2, 4, 6, 9, 12, 14, 16, 28 and 49 of the Convention and as communicated beforehand by the Office."

237. Interchange of Health Personnel in West Africa: Provisional Report of Dr. Destouches.

Dr. RAJCHMAN said that Dr. Destouches had just returned from West Africa, where he had undertaken the difficult task of arranging the tour of the participants in the interchange. The Medical Director had asked Dr. Destouches to take advantage of his journey to enquire into the possibility of establishing a bureau of Epidemiological Information in West Africa. Dr. Destouches had carried out this enquiry and, at the same time, had discussed the question with various health administrations and with the participants in the interchange. The Health Committee would probably desire to examine more in detail the provisional report submitted by Dr. Destouches while reserving its final decision for the October session.

The provisional report on the Interchange of Health Personnel in West Africa was read.

The PRESIDENT, in the name of the Committee, congratulated Dr. Destouches. He thought the study tour carried out in Africa might result in the establishment of an office similar in some respect to that at Singapore, which would mean that the tour had been of great importance.

Professor Léon BERNARD associated himself with the observation of the Chairman. He was particularly struck by the passage in the report concerning the School of Medicine at Dakar. He asked Dr. Destouches to give details, either in his final report or in a special note, regarding this school of medicine. As a member of the Committee on Public Health Instruction, he hoped to derive great profit from such information. Was the establishment a school of general or tropical medicine ?

Dr. DESTOUCHES undertook to furnish the information requested. The School of Medicine at Dakar was a school of general medicine established on the same plan as the French schools. It delivered permits to natives to practise medicine, but not a doctor's diploma. Natives possessing such authority were required to remain in the service of the Administration for ten years.

Dr. GRANVILLE stated that about three years ago, he thought, a somewhat similar medical school had been established at Khartoum to train native medical officers for practice in outlying districts. These were supposed to be partly trained medical men: something similar, he believed, used to exist in France in bygone days — " officiers de santé ". The students, he thought, had four years' instruction and were then bound to work for the Government for a period of years, after which they could return to the school and qualify fully for medical men. It would be useful, in his opinion, to obtain from the Sudan Administration details of the progress of the institution.

The Committee decided to examine at its next meeting the provisional report on the French proposal concerning the establishment of an Epidemiological Bureau in West Africa.

SECOND MEETING

Held at Paris on Sunday, June 20th, 1926, at 11 a.m.

Present: All the members of the Committee, with the exception of Dr. Carrière, Surgeon-General Cumming, Dr. Alice Hamilton and Professor Pittaluga.

238. Request of the Turkish Government for Three European Sanitary Advisers : Letter from the President of the Office international d'hygiène publique.

A letter sent on June 9th, 1926, by the President of the Office international to the President of the Health Committee was read (Annex 107). This letter concerned the appointment provided for by the terms of the Declaration of Lausanne of July 24th, 1923, of three European medical experts to be advisers to the frontier Turkish Health Administration. To that letter was attached a communication dated April 30th, 1926, from Fethy Bey, Turkish Ambassador in Paris, stating the conditions on which the Ministry of Health and Social Assistance in Turkey desired to appoint three medical advisers.

Dr. GRANVILLE noted that the Turkish Government offered the medical advisers six weeks' annual leave. It would be preferable, as was the custom in the Egyptian Administration, to allow two months' leave a year and to allow the medical advisers the right not to take their leave every year, but to accumulate three and a-half months of leave in two years. It was suggested that the Office international should be asked to take account of this point in its reply to the Turkish Government.

The PRESIDENT thought that this suggestion might be borne in mind when appointing the medical advisers.

Professor Léon BERNARD wondered whether the Committee should not accept without change the observations of the Office international on the proposals of the Turkish Government in order to gain time and not compel the Office international to return to the question at its October session.

M. VELGHE thought that, if there were not any serious divergence of view between the Office international and the Health Committee and if the proposed amendments to the observations of the Office international only concerned points of detail such as that raised by Dr. Granville, it would not be essential for the Office to take any further decision. Both organisations could submit any observations they thought fit. When the Committee had replied to the Office international, he was ready to inform the Office verbally of the observations made in the Committee in order that they should be submitted in the name of both organisations.

With reference to paragraph 7 of the conditions laid down by the Turkish Government, he explained that, according to the Declaration of Lausanne, the medical advisers were to be chosen by that Government, which must naturally have the right to dismiss an official who did not give satisfaction. It was in this sense that the Office international, in its observations, had expressed the view that such a condition was superfluous. The Turkish Government might replace an official who had been dismissed by choosing one of the three other persons whose names remained on the list of six drawn up by the Health Committee and the Office international. It was mainly because of this condition imposed by the Turkish Government that the Office international considered the salary of 300 Turkish pounds proposed for the medical advisers to be insufficient.

Dr. GRANVILLE feared that the terms of condition No. 7 laid down by the Turkish Government to the effect that the retention or dismissal of these advisers depended on the " competent department " might prove an insufficient guarantee for the advisers nominated.

M. VELGHE saw no objection to the Committee's mentioning such a point. He would remind it, however, that it was formally laid down in the Declaration of Lausanne that the doctors in question would be Turkish officials and would be responsible to the Turkish Minister of Health. The Health Committee was not compelled to agree without discussion to the proposal put before it by the Committee of the Office international. The Health Committee might make reservations or ask for further details.

Professor Léon BERNARD recalled that it was on the proposal of the Office international and of the Health Committee that the Turkish Government would proceed to make the appointments and suggested that the Turkish Government should be asked, if dissatisfied with one of the officials selected, not to take any decision with regard to him except with the assent of both these organisations. It would perhaps be wise to introduce such a saving clause.

Dr. GRANVILLE suggested a clause worded to the following effect: " The Turkish Government can dismiss a medical adviser on payment of the remainder of his salary."

Dr. RAJCHMAN recalled that the matter had been discussed in detail by the Permanent Committee of the Office international. It was important to note that a representative of the Turkish Government had attended that meeting, as a Turkish delegate sat on the Permanent Committee. It would be preferable to adopt without change the observations of the Permanent Committee, and that for two further reasons:

1. As M. Velghe had pointed out, the Declaration of Lausanne was formal on this point and there was no appeal from it. It stated that the medical advisers would be responsible to the Health Minister and not to the Health Ministry.
2. It appeared very doubtful that the Turkish Government would proceed to the appointment of three medical advisers. The Turkish delegate to the Office international had pointed out that the salary of £600 requested for the medical advisers would exceed the salary of the Turkish Prime Minister. From this it would appear that the discussion was mainly of a theoretical nature and that the Committee should avoid wounding the legitimate susceptibilities of the Turks.

The PRESIDENT proposed that the text of the observations of the Office international should be adopted, together with those made during the discussion.

Dr. GRANVILLE thought that, if the Declaration of Lausanne contained the reference to which allusion had been made, it was inadvisable to add the additional clause now under discussion. The Committee should remember that the medical advisers to be selected would accept their posts under the responsibility of the Health Committee and the Office international and would thus believe themselves secure from arbitrary treatment. If the Health Committee and the Office international did not take precautions, they would be somewhat failing in their duties and somewhat careless of their rights.

Professor Léon BERNARD pointed out that in the observations on condition No. 7 the term " superfluity " was incorrect, for it appeared to strengthen the position taken by the Turkish Government.

M. VELGHE proposed that it should be stated that condition No. 7 was " opposed to the Declaration of Lausanne ".

Dr. GRANVILLE accepted this proposal.

The commentaries of the Office international were approved.

239. French Proposal concerning the Establishment of an Epidemiological Bureau in West Africa : Preliminary Report of Dr. Destouches on the Enquiry concerning this Proposal.

The preliminary report of Dr. Destouches was read.

The PRESIDENT opened the discussion on the report.

With regard to the forwarding of information by wireless, Dr. DESTOUCHES said that, at present, wireless was not used commercially in Africa. Perhaps this method of forwarding information

might be utilised for official information, but in view of the climate it was impossible to transmit news by wireless during nine or ten months of the year between the hours of 2 p.m. and nightfall, except in the case or the most powerful stations, situated at Bamako, Brazzaville and the Cape, where the operators could receive communications if they were despatched at a fixed hour.

Dr. RAYNAUD pointed out that a system of wireless stations had been established between Algeria, Tunis, Morocco, Southern Algeria and Tunisia, and that it was working in a satisfactory manner. The administrations were so interested in the proposed organisation that they would certainly agree to forward sanitary information by wireless. There were, moreover, other important posts in addition to those which had just been mentioned.

Dr. RAJCHMAN explained that the question of forwarding information by wireless had been discussed in detail at Singapore and, without knowing the conditions in Africa, he could confirm what had been said by Dr. Destouches. The future of wireless was considerable, but it would be dangerous to make this method the sole means of transmission except in the case of very powerful stations. As far as the Far East was concerned, there were only three or four health administrations which regularly received information by wireless. Information could not be obtained, however, by this means either at Hong-Kong, Manila or even at Singapore. This was explained to a great extent by reasons of climate. With certain exceptions, wireless stations could only receive communications at fixed hours. It was certain, moreover, that in a more or less near future wireless could be used, and an attempt should be made to do so. In conformity with the suggestions which had been made, the Medical Director favoured the establishment of a provisional centre of study. The various questions which the problem raised could only be regulated after experiment.

Professor Léon BERNARD noted that the Committee was, generally speaking, agreed as to the usefulness of establishing a Pan-African Bureau as well as a provisional organisation of an experimental kind. On the other hand, no decision had been taken as to the central headquarters of that organisation. Was it for technical reasons that the report proposed Marseilles ? At first sight he thought that, for a Pan-African Bureau, the site of Algiers, situated on the Mediterranean and connected with the principal African centres, was the one to be chosen.

Dr. GRANVILLE recalled that the question interested a large number of countries—England, Belgium, France, Portugal, etc. So far as the Singapore Bureau was concerned, the first step had been to consult the Governments on the establishment of the bureau. Had the same step been taken with regard to the African Bureau ?

Dr. RAJCHMAN replied that the Governments were being consulted. The same procedure had been followed as in the case of the Singapore Bureau, and the Secretary-General had sent a circular letter to the various Colonial Ministries asking for the views of the Colonial Health Administrations. Only one or two replies had been received. The Health Committee had further decided to use the interchange visit to West Africa for the purpose of the enquiry. With this object, the views of the participants had been asked for at the final conference, though they had not been Government delegates. At the same time, Dr. Destouches had investigated the question with the help of the Health Administrations of the colonies visited. It had been thought well, because of the very great interest of the scheme, to keep the Committee informed as to progress made, without loss of time. From the information obtained by Dr. Destouches and from the opinions expressed by the participants in the interchange, some of whom had consulted their administrations, it appeared that there were difficulties in the way of taking an immediate decision on the establishment of a bureau, whether that bureau should be established for West Africa or for the whole of Africa. There were also difficulties with regard to the official headquarters of the organisation. Obviously, an experiment must be made. What was the information to be collected ? What value was to be given to it ? In what way would it be collected and distributed ? Perhaps an experiment lasting eight or nine months would be necessary before taking a final decision. He thought it would be logical to begin the investigations in a port on the Mediterranean which was easily accessible. The choice of Algiers would be a happy one.

Dr. GRANVILLE was strongly in favour of this proposal. Account should be taken of African susceptibilities.

Professor JORGE said that Portugal followed with very great interest the interchange visit in West Africa, in which its most important colony was situated. This visit had given the greatest satisfaction in all Portuguese circles, and he expressed his gratitude to the organisers, the Medical Director and Dr. Destouches.

With regard to an Epidemiological Bureau for Africa, he agreed with the report of Dr. Destouches. From the Portuguese point of view, he regretted that the idea of a bureau for West Africa was abandoned, but he recognised that a Pan-African Bureau would have a larger field of work and would obtain the adhesion of a great number of African and European States. As far as the choice of headquarters was concerned, he thought that, if Dakar were not to be chosen, a port on the Mediterranean should be selected. Algiers was particularly suitable from all points of view. This was his personal opinion, but he would have to make a reservation since he had received no instructions from his Government, which took a keen interest in the question as far as its colonies in West and East Africa were concerned.

The future bureau ought not to be established on the same model as the Singapore Bureau. It should be a centre for all African pathology, and its creation was necessary and would reflect credit on the Health Organisation. The Committee should pay less attention to the idea of collecting frequent and rapid epidemiological information than to that of collecting statistics on African epidemiology and pathology.

Professor CANTACUZÈNE supported Dr. Granville. It was important for the bureau to be established in a centre where African pathology was being investigated, and as far as this was concerned no centre could compare with Algiers.

Sir George BUCHANAN said that, although he had not had occasion to discuss the results of the interchange tour with the British medical participants, or to see their reports, he was sure that the impressions which he would obtain would be as favourable as those of Professor Ricardo Jorge. The Health Services concerned would certainly be under a great obligation to the Health Organisation, particularly to Dr. Destouches, who had evidently worked very hard to make this interchange visit a success in the face of numerous difficulties.

As regards the bureau, he had been struck by two ideas of primary importance which had come to light during the discussion: Ought the future office to be a scientific centre or a centre for the distribution of information for immediate administrative requirements ? Such were the two aspects of the question and the administrations concerned should be the first to examine them in detail. It might be very useful to conduct an experiment which would show how the scheme would work out, but for this experiment also it would be well first to obtain all possible opinions. Could the provisional report of Dr. Destouches be communicated to the departments concerned in the various countries or was it strictly reserved for the members of the Committee? In the second case, a special report could be drawn up to be sent to Governments with a view to making it possible for the Committee to take a final decision.

Dr. RAJCHMAN agreed with Sir George Buchanan. The Committee could not immediately take a final decision, first because of the enquiry still in progress among various Health Administrations, and secondly because the Committee had not been authorised by the Council to choose a centre. In the case of Singapore, it had been the prerogative of the Council to make the choice, but it had allowed the Committee to do so. The Council still had the right to take the final decision in the present case.

Rather than send the provisional report of Dr. Destouches to the Administrations concerned, it would be preferable to forward to them the Minutes of the present meeting or a report on the discussions which had just taken place. The report prepared by Dr. Destouches had been hastily drafted. The final document would have to be drawn up with great care after the views of the Health Administrations had been obtained. A preliminary document would aid Health Administrations to formulate their views, which should be forwarded to the Secretariat through the ordinary channels, and the Committee could take a decision at its next session, for it was probable that the Council, if the question were submitted to it, would show itself favourable and would ask the Committee to proceed to a final choice. The views collected would enable the Secretariat to examine the question in greater detail and to submit to the Committee more definite proposals on the basis of the suggestions put forward. He hoped that Dr. Raynaud would assist in this preliminary enquiry.

Dr. CHODZKO, without being competent to express an opinion with regard to African pathology, could nevertheless form an opinion of the work done by Dr. Raynaud and in general by the French Colonial doctors. No better choice than Algiers could be made, nor could the Committee do better than ask Dr. Raynaud to direct the centre of preparatory studies. Such studies were doubtless necessary before a final decision was taken. He thought the Committee could immediately choose Algiers, for such a decision would not prejudge the question of the final centre.

M. VELGHE thought that the Secretariat should draw up a fresh report for submission to the Health Administrations. This report should contain suggestions and record the views of the Health Committee on the organisation of the bureau, its functions and the choice of the town of Algiers, etc.

Professor Léon BERNARD noted that, at least provisionally, the Committee was unanimously agreed on the following points:

1. The establishment of a Pan-African bureau of a special character, devoted to the collection of scientific information rather than to the despatch of administrative information.
2. The necessity of conducting a provisional experiment.
3. The choice of Algiers as the headquarters of the bureau.

These various points could be included in a special report for submission to the administrations concerned.

Dr. JITTA said that Dr. Carrière had asked him to state, on his behalf, that he would agree to the proposal that Algiers should be chosen as the centre. Personally, without having gone into the question in detail, Dr. Jitta had no objection to this choice. He would, however, raise the financial question. The Singapore Bureau at the end of the five years, during which the Rockefeller Foundation would pay a subsidy, would find some difficulty in continuing. If the field of the Health Committee's activities was enlarged still further, were not obstacles of all kinds to be feared ?

Sir George BUCHANAN said that his provisional opinion was that there would be no difficulty in choosing Algiers as a centre for the purposes of discussion, so that the Committee, instead of talking about a possible "African" bureau, could hypothecate a bureau for African purposes at Algiers. But such a decision would in no way prejudge the decision of Governments on the point whether a centre should be established, and, in the affirmative, what its functions would be. The question remained entirely open until the Governments concerned had made known their views.

With regard to the question of cost, he believed that, as far as the Singapore Bureau was concerned, the Rockefeller Foundation had made a preliminary offer and the Committee had undertaken the enterprise with the knowledge that a considerable sum was at its disposal. Negotiations with the Rockefeller Foundation should not in the present case be begun before the Committee decided what it wanted to do and knew what was the end to be achieved.

Dr. RAJCHMAN was not yet in a position to reply very definitely to the question raised by Dr. Jitta. If later on it was definitely decided to establish a provisional centre at Algiers, it was quite possible that the expenses would be covered by the Health Organisation's ordinary budget. For this reason it was all the more impossible to say at the moment how the future work would be financed. He was convinced, however, that it could be arranged. The Health Organisation had already accomplished more difficult tasks. For the moment he could only say that it would be possible to cover the cost of the experiment in Algiers and that, as far as the provisional bureau was concerned, its expenses would obviously not be too great, especially if it were established on French territory. As far as the future was concerned, a definite proposal should be awaited which would be discussed by the Health Administrations. It would be premature, however, to contemplate a detailed proposal for the moment.

With regard to the document to be communicated to the Health Administrations, he agreed with M. Velghe and Sir George Buchanan in thinking that a short report should be drafted on the basis of the discussion which had taken place and that the report should be submitted to all members of the Committee at the same time as the Minutes of the session. Members of the Committee could, in the eight days following the receipt of this report, submit their observations to the Secretariat.

Dr. RAYNAUD said that, if it had been decided to choose Algiers as a provisional centre, he would be happy to place his staff at the disposal of the Health Organisation. From the point of view of maritime health, an intelligent service existed which could be used. A certain time previously a service of caterpillar traction motor-cars had been used in the south. More and more numerous caravans were connecting North and Equatorial Africa, and it was necessary to take measures to prevent the introduction of Central-African diseases not only as regards men, but also as regards cattle. There existed in Algiers, as had been pointed out, excellent centres of investigation which might assist the work as a whole, and he would be happy to further the future work by getting into touch with those of his profession on the coast with whom he had established relations. In conclusion, he thanked his colleagues for the confidence which they had shown in him.

Dr. MIMBELA congratulated the Committee on the choice of Algiers, which had the advantage of being halfway to the American continent. He expressed his satisfaction with the statements of Dr. Raynaud, whose personality constituted a further guarantee for the success of the scheme.

240. **Date of the Next Session.**

With regard to the date of the next session, Dr. LUTRARIO urged that the tour of the Malaria Committee in Sicily should not be postponed again.

After a discussion, *it was agreed that the tour of the Malaria Committee in Sicily should take place from September 27th* to *October 11th or 12th. The Health Committee would meet on October 13th in order to make it possible for the Office international to hold its session between October 20th and 30th. If the Agenda of the Health Committee had not then been quite covered, it could complete its session by one or two meetings held in Paris.*

Dr. LUTRARIO said he would get into touch with the Italian authorities with regard to the date chosen for the tour of the Malaria Committee.

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Annex 106.

NOTIFICATION OF EPIDEMIC DISEASES PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE 1 OF THE INTERNATIONAL SANITARY CONVENTION OF 1926.

Draft Agreement presented by Their Two Bureaux to the Office international d'hygiene publique and the Health Committee of the League of Nations.

The Permanent Committee of the Office international d'hygiène publique and the Health Committee of the League of Nations have mutually agreed upon the following procedure, which they consider to be the most suitable in securing the centralisation and distribution of information regarding epidemic diseases and sanitary measures which are provided for under the International Sanitary Convention of Paris, 1926.

1. The notifications provided for under Article 1 and intended for the Office international d'hygiène publique may be effected by Governments through one of the League of Nations regional bureaux.

These bureaux will at once communicate such notifications by telegraph or wireless to the Office international d'hygiène publique as well as to all health administrations with whom they are in direct relations.

The notifications so received will be communicated forthwith by the Office international d'hygiène publique to the diplomatic agencies in Paris.

2. The immediate communication to the principal health authorities provided for under Article 3 of the Convention will be effected in the name and on behalf of the Office international d'hygiène publique by the Epidemiological Intelligence Service of the League of Nations.

Immediate communication will be made to this Service of all notifications transmitted, either directly or through the regional bureaux, to the Office international d'hygiène publique.

The immediate communication of these notifications to the principal health authorities will be effected by this Service in the name of the Office, by telegraph or wireless, as frequently as may be necessary.

3. The communications provided for under Articles 2, 4 and 7 of the Convention, received direct by the Bureaux of the League of Nations, will be transmitted immediately to the Office international d'hygiène publique as well as to all health administrations in contact with the bureaux.

4. The first page of the *Weekly Summary* and of the periodical publications of the Epidemiological Intelligence Service of the League of Nations will give, in the name of the Office international d'hygiène publique, the official bulletin of notifications and of intelligence as provided for under Articles 2, 4 and 7 of the Convention and as communicated by the Office.

C. H. 486.

ANNEX 107.

REQUEST OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT FOR THREE EUROPEAN SANITARY ADVISERS.

Letter from the President of the Office international d'hygiène publique to the President of the Health Committee.

[*Translation.*] Paris, June 9th, 1926.

As you are aware, under the terms of the Declaration of July 24th, 1923, relating to sanitary matters, which is annexed to the Treaty of Lausanne of the same date, the Turkish Government is to " appoint for a period of five years three European medical specialists as advisers to the sanitary administration of the frontiers. These medical specialists shall be Turkish officials and shall be attached to the Ministry of Health. They shall be chosen by the said Government from a list of six names, prepared in agreement by the Health Committee of the League of Nations and by the International Bureau of Public Health. Their salary, as well as the other terms of their appointment, shall be settled by agreement between the said Government and the two above-mentioned international organisations. "

On October 25th, 1923, the Office international d'hygiène publique received from Ismet Pasha, President of the Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Turkish Republic, a letter requesting it " to prepare, in agreement with the Health Committee of the League of Nations, the list of six names mentioned in the Declaration of July 24th, 1923". His Excellency stated that he had addressed a similar communication to the Committee of the League of Nations.

In acknowledging receipt of this letter from His Excellency Ismet Pasha, I informed him that the Office international d'hygiène publique was ready to comply with his wishes, but that it appeared essential to determine in advance, in agreement with the Turkish Government, the Office international and the Health Committee of the League of Nations, the salary and other terms of appointment for the advisers to the sanitary administration of the frontiers, as provided in the first paragraph of the Declaration of July 24th, 1923. I added that the fixing by common agreement of the conditions in question was, indeed, indispensable if the Office international d'hygiène publique and the Health Committee of the League of Nations were to prepare a suitable list of six names of medical specialists who would be prepared to undertake the duties referred to in the Declaration of July 24th, 1923. I therefore requested the Turkish Government to be good enough to inform me of the terms of the contract (salary and other conditions of appointment for the three sanitary advisers) which it was submitting for the consideration of the Office international d'hygiène publique and the Health Committee of the League of Nations.

Having again, on April 10th last, brought the matter to the notice of His Excellency the Turkish Ambassador in Paris, through whom Ismet Pasha's letter of October 23rd, 1923, had been forwarded, I received from the Ambassador, on April 30th, 1926, a communication (copy of which is attached hereto), in which the Turkish Government stated the conditions which it would propose for the appointment of the three sanitary advisers.

The Committee of the Office international d'hygiène publique has examined these conditions and I have the honour to communicate to you the observations which they would appear to suggest.

As regards the salary of three hundred Turkish pounds per month named in paragraph 1 of the conditions, this amount does not appear to be sufficient to induce specialists of any standing to sacrifice their present positions for a period of five years.

In the opinion of the Office international d'hygiène publique, it would be impossible to obtain the services of such medical specialists unless they were offered at least six hundred Turkish pounds per month, especially since, under the Turkish legislation, they would not be allowed to practise during the period of the appointment.

Paragraphs 2 and 3 do not call for any observation.

As regards one of the conditions named in paragraph 4, according to which the sanitary advisers would reside " in such places as may be appointed ", it should be remembered that, according to the Turkish Declaration, the sanitary advisers must be attached to the frontier administration of the Ministry of Health. It would thus appear to be natural for them to have their fixed residence in the place where the headquarters of this Turkish Administration are situated. This would not prevent the European advisers from being entrusted with temporary missions, more particularly for the purpose of obtaining information or of carrying out inspections or enquiries, if necessary, in other parts of the Turkish territory.

As regards condition No. 5, concerning the annual leave of six weeks, this period seems too short, if travelling is to be included. It would be more practical to increase the period to two months per annum, including travelling.

There is no objection to the acceptance of condition No. 7, but this clause of the contract constitutes, as was suggested in connection with condition No. 1, an additional reason for increasing the proposed salary for the sanitary advisers to six hundred Turkish pounds.

Condition No. 7 is, in fact, superfluous, while the latter part of the clause would render it particularly difficult to recruit candidates, whose chances of permanent employment would be destroyed, without compensation, if the period were fixed at five years.

There is no objection to the acceptance of condition No. 8.

These are the observations which suggest themselves to the Office international d'hygiène publique in connection with the Turkish Government's reply. I should be grateful if I might be informed of the results of the consideration of this reply by your Committee and should be glad to know whether it concurs in the observations formulated by the Office international d'hygiène publique concerning certain of the conditions proposed by the Turkish Government for the appointment of the three European sanitary advisers.

(Signed) O. VELGHE,

President of the Committee of the Office international d'hygiène publique.

Letter from the Turkish Government to the President of the Office international d'hygiène publique.

[*Translation.*] Paris, April 30th, 1926.

In reply to your letter of the 10th instant, I have the honour to inform you that the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare would suggest the following conditions for the appointment of the three counsellors:

1. The salary of each of the counsellors shall be at the rate of £300 (Turkish) per month.
2. Preference should be given to candidates who have carried out special epidemiological studies and have held office under a Public Health Administration.
3. Candidates must know French.

4. The medical specialists in question shall be subject to the same regulations as Turkish officials and shall be attached to the above-mentioned Ministry. They shall reside in such places as may be appointed.
5. They shall be entitled to six weeks' annual leave.
6. As provided in the Turkish legislation, they shall not be allowed to practise medicine in Turkey.
7. Should any counsellor appointed for a period of five years fail to comply with the conditions laid down, the competent department reserves the right to dispense with his services and to appoint a successor in his place for the remainder of the period.
8. A copy of the *curriculum vitæ* of candidates shall be forwarded to the Ministry of Public Health through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Angora.

(Signed) A. FETHY,

Turkish Ambassador.